

What's Blooming at Pinnacles National Park?

March 29, 2017



Silver Bush Lupine

(*Lupinus albifrons* var. *albifrons*) - Fabaceae

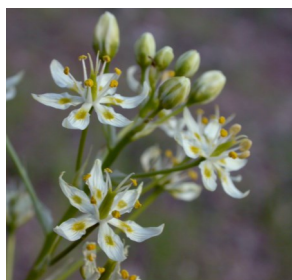
This shrub has silvery-hairy leaves and tiers of purple and white flowers. It tends to grow in sandy washes and gravelly soil. Check out the eastern entrance to the park on Hwy 146.



Woodland Star

(*Lithophragma affine*) - Saxifragaceae

Woodland star has a white flower with five petals that appear fringed or deeply lobed. The flowers may appear in clusters of three to fifteen. As the name suggests, it prefers shady woodland and some streamside areas.



Fremont's Star Lily

(*Toxicoscordion fremontii*) - Melanthiaceae

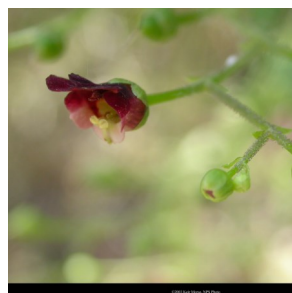
This plant, also called Fremont's death camas, is toxic to livestock and people due to alkaloids in the leaves, and especially in its bulb. It has a cluster of white flowers with six petals and long, narrow leaves with wavy edges.



Purple Owl's Clover

(*Castilleja exserta* ssp. *exserta*) - Orobanchaceae

This small flower is related to paintbrush species, and is also partially parasitic. It is usually about 6-8 inches tall, and may appear alone or in large groups. It has a cluster of purple to pink flowers, sometimes with white tips.



California Figwort

(*Scrophularia californica*) - Scrophulariaceae

This species, sometimes called bee plant, has a small red or maroon flower with two lobes that look like little ears. The leaves are triangular with serrated edges, and the whole plant may be 1-4 feet tall.

Other Plants Blooming in the Park

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
Baby blue eyes	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i> var. <i>menziesii</i>	Boraginaceae
Bishop's lotus	<i>Acmispon strigosus</i>	Fabaceae
Bladder parsnip	<i>Lomatium utriculatum</i>	Apiaceae
Blue dicks	<i>Dichelostemma capitatum</i> ssp. <i>capitatum</i>	Themidaceae
Blue fiesta flower	<i>Pholistoma auritum</i> var. <i>auritum</i>	Boraginaceae
Blue witch	<i>Solanum umbelliferum</i>	Solanaceae
Buckbrush	<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i>	Rhamnaceae
Bush poppy	<i>Dendromecon rigida</i>	Papaveraceae
California buttercup	<i>Ranunculus californicus</i>	Ranunculaceae
California figwort	<i>Scrophularia californica</i>	Scrophulariaceae
California hedge nettle	<i>Stachys bullata</i>	Lamiaceae
California man-root	<i>Marah fabacea</i>	Cucurbitaceae
California saxifrage	<i>Micranthes californica</i>	Saxifragaceae
Checker lily	<i>Fritillaria affinis</i>	Liliaceae
Chia	<i>Salvia columbariae</i>	Lamiaceae
Chinese houses	<i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>	Plantaginaceae
Common large monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	Phrymaceae
Cream cups	<i>Platystemon californicus</i>	Papaveraceae
Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia</i> spp.	Boraginaceae
Fremont's star lily	<i>Toxicoscordion fremontii</i>	Melanthiaceae
Goldfields	<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	Asteraceae
Gray mule's ears	<i>Wyethia helenioides</i>	Asteraceae
Jewelflower	<i>Streptanthus glandulosus</i> ssp. <i>glandulosus</i>	Brassicaceae
Johnny jump-ups	<i>Viola pedunculata</i>	Violaceae
Lace parsnip	<i>Lomatium dasycarpum</i> ssp. <i>dasycarpum</i>	Apiaceae
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium</i> spp.	Ranunculaceae
Milk maids	<i>Cardamine californica</i>	Brassicaceae
Mosquito bills	<i>Dodecatheon hendersonii</i>	Primulaceae
Naked broomrape	<i>Orobanche uniflora</i>	Orobanchaceae
Popcorn flower	<i>Plagiobothrys</i> spp.	Boraginaceae
Pretty faces	<i>Tritileia lugens</i>	Themidaceae
Purple owl's clover	<i>Castilleja exserta</i> ssp. <i>exserta</i>	Orobanchaceae
Shooting stars	<i>Dodecatheon clevelandii</i> ssp. <i>patulum</i>	Primulaceae
Silver bush lupine	<i>Lupinus albifrons</i> var. <i>albifrons</i>	Fabaceae
Sticky monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Phrymaceae
Tomcat clover	<i>Trifolium wildenovii</i>	Fabaceae
Warrior's plume	<i>Pedicularis densiflora</i>	Orobanchaceae
Western wallflower	<i>Erysimum capitatum</i> var. <i>capitatum</i>	Brassicaceae
White fiesta flower	<i>Pholistoma membranaceum</i>	Boraginaceae
White plectritis	<i>Plectritis macrocera</i>	Valerianaceae
Woodland star	<i>Lithophragma affine</i>	Saxifragaceae
Woolly paintbrush	<i>Castilleja foliolosa</i>	Orobanchaceae

Resources for Identifying Plants

Pinnacles National Park Website: <http://www.nps.gov/pinn/learn/nature/plants.htm>

Check the right side of the page for links to tree and wildflower photo galleries, the digital herbarium, and the park plant checklist.

CalFlora: <http://www.calflora.org>

Search for plants to find distribution maps, plant characteristics, blooming period, and more.

CalPhotos: <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/flora/>

A great database of photos to help ID what you're seeing in the field.

iNaturalist: <http://www.inaturalist.org/>

This site is a social media platform for sharing natural history observations. You can make your own records, help others with identification, and see what species are in your area. There are smartphone apps available for iOS and Android.

*Species nomenclature based on Jepson 2012
Send your own observations to michael_shelley@nps.gov*



Goldfields can create impressive carpets in flat, open, sandy areas between shrubs and in stream washes. Photo by Mike Shelley, NPS.